

Flight Jacket

Vol. 3, No. 19

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

May 18, 2001

Miramar CH-53 crew helps save Fallbrook man

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 were instrumental in the rescue of a North County man May 14.

The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Marines were on a post maintenance check flight about three miles off the coast of Carlsbad when Lance Cpl. Timothy A. Hale, HMH-462 crew chief, spotted a man in the water below.

"Thunder 13" crew chiefs Hale and Lance Cpl. Wesley M. Franklin kept Craig Tantalo in sight while the pilots of the helicopter radioed for Coast Guard assistance.

"We coordinated a rescue by the Coast Guard who arrived about 45 minutes later," said Capt. Robert B. Fanning, HMH-462 pilot and flight commander.

Tantalo, who wasn't wearing a life jacket, lost control of his jet ski and was left in the water for more than 24 hours, holding onto a fire extinguisher to stay afloat.

Apparently, Tantalo released some of the contents of the extinguisher, which attracted Hale's attention.

"All I saw was a little white speck waving around," said Hale. "It just didn't seem right."

"God bless the Marines who found him," said Dixie Sheldon, Tantalo's mother. "No one else could have seen him except them."

"Lance Cpl. Hale and Lance Cpl. Franklin did an outstanding job of keeping sight of the victim while 1st Lt. [Randy L] Roden did all the flying," said Fanning. "It is extremely difficult to keep sight of an individual in the water from 300 feet."

The Marines kept Tantalo in sight until the Coast Guard's rescue helicopter arrived.

Coast Guard rescue swimmer Dave Coats of Coast Guard Air Station San Diego assisted Tantalo into the rescue basket and a Coast Guard helicopter hoisted him to safety. Tantalo was then taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, where he is being treated for hypothermia and other complications from being in the ocean for so long, according to Sheldon.

Sheldon wished to extend her thanks to the Marines who helped rescue her son. "I just want to make sure they know they have my gratitude."

"God bless the Marines who found him. No one else could have seen him except them."

Dixie Sheldon,
Tantalo's mother.



Crew chiefs Lance Cpl. Wesley M. Franklin (left) and Lance Cpl. Timothy A. Hale stand in front of the CH-53E helicopter they were flying in when Hale spotted the man stranded in the Pacific Ocean. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

3d MAW general visits squadrons around globe



Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d MAW, meritoriously promotes Lance Cpl. Robert V. Turney, KC-130 mechanic, VMGR-352, to corporal. Turney worked with the crew that flew the general around the globe. Photo by 2nd Lt. Joshua G. Rushing

By 2nd Lt. Joshua G. Rushing

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

In life great things are often the yield of long journeys.

As a man who has traveled beyond this planet's atmosphere, Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., former NASA shuttle pilot and commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, is a man who knows the value of long journeys.

Maj. Gen. Bolden, who has flown the shuttle into space on four different occasions, recently took another trip around the world, but this time without going into orbit. Trading in NASA's mammoth launching rockets for four turbo-props, the 33-year veteran joined the Raiders of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 on a long journey of great merit.

In just 12 days, the Raiders' KC-130 Hercules, her two crews and a few passengers spanned 24 time zones and accomplished a handful of missions.

Along the 24,000-mile journey, the general visited with squadrons deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch, the Persian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation, and the Republic of the Philippines in support of the combined-joint exercise, Balikatan 2001. Major General Bolden also got to see the Marines of VMGR-352 in action tackling such an impressive tasker.

The general was so impressed with the professionalism of the Raiders along the trip that he meritoriously promoted

Lance Cpl. Robert V. Turney a KC-130 mechanic and 22-year-old native of Farmington, N.M., to corporal effective June 2. "It's unbelievable to receive such an honor from someone who's practically a national hero," Turney said.

Along with the commanding general, the KC-130 Hercules also took supplies and packages to the deployed 3d MAW Marines. To Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225 in Kuwait, two datalink pods for their F/A-18 Hornets were delivered, as well as some care packages.

"The pods will provide the pilots more information in the cockpit," said Lt. Col. Howard F. Barker, commanding officer, VMFA-225. "But don't underestimate the importance of the Key Volunteers' goody box."

"That kind of stuff, no matter what it is or how much it is, I can tell you that they're going to love it before they even open it. And that's important," he said.

The general's visit meant a lot to the Marines as well, according to Sgt. Maj.

Dennis M. Payne, VMFA-225 sergeant major. "He's down to earth. It really shows that he is concerned about us, to make the trip all the way out here and talk to us about how he can't replace us. He can replace a jet but not a Marine. It really opened their eyes that he cares."

At the end of his long journey, the commanding general concluded that 3d MAW Marines representing America across the globe are well taken care of and have the supplies they need to successfully complete their missions. And in life, as was true on this trip, great things are often the yield of long journeys.

It really shows that he is concerned about us, to make the trip all the way out here and talk to us about how he can't replace us. He can replace a jet but not a Marine. It really opened their eyes that he cares."

Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Payne
sergeant major, VMFA-225

MALS-16 honored for 'partnership in education' with Muir Alternative School

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Giving back to the San Diego community has been a lifestyle for the Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 here for the past three years. The Marines have participated in many activities that benefit the children of San Diego in the area of education.

MALS-16 was honored for their community service at the San Diego City Schools 19th Annual End-of-Year Community Recognition Event at Sea World, May 10.

"All the Marines here are part of the San Diego community. Helping these children gives us a chance to give back to the community we are members of," said Maj. Terry W. Reid, executive officer, MALS-16.

Since 1999, MALS-16 has hosted a career day here for students from John Muir Alternative Magnet School. The average attendance has been approximately 300 students. The event affords students the opportunity to be exposed to several occupations within the Marine Corps.

Additionally, MALS-16 provides 20 to 30 tutors each week to teach the children basic math and science skills.

"The Marines give these kids standards to look at – like honor and integrity," said Will Laughlin, head counselor, John Muir Alternative Magnet School.

"The idea of helping children in our community is part of Major General Bolden's vision for the Marines of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing," said Reid.

Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d MAW, clarified his vi-

sion for the Marines of 3d MAW.

"A very important basis for the vision of 3d MAW is our 'Putting Marines First' Campaign Plan. The plan is built on the three pillars of mentorship, wellness, and community outreach. One of the goals of community outreach is to 'establish volunteerism as a virtuous activity worthy of our effort,'" said Maj. Gen. Bolden.

"The Marines and Sailors of MALS-16

have taken this goal and put it to action here in the San Diego community with their partnership with John Muir Magnet School. This act of service to others makes MALS-16 a most-worthy recipient of the 'Partnerships in Education' Award," said Maj. Gen. Bolden in praise of MALS-

16's dedication to volunteerism.

"All the Marines here are part of the San Diego community. Helping these children gives us a chance to give back to the community we are members of."

Maj. Terry W. Reid,
executive officer, MALS-16



Students from John Muir Alternative Magnet School learn about a Marine aircraft mechanic's job during a recent visit to MALS-16. The ForeRunners received a "Partnerships in Education" award May 10 for their continuing voluntary commitment to helping John Muir students succeed. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho

Wing highlights commitment with colors ceremony

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Members of the military and civilian community turned the spotlight on the Corps' value "commitment" May 11, during a colors ceremony at the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters building here.

The 3d MAW band provided the guests with spirited music, conjuring up smiles from the audience filled with drill instructors from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and officials from local Boy Scouts of America and Cub Scouts of America dens.

Colonel George J. Trautman, 3d MAW

assistant wing commander, addressed the crowd during the ceremony, praising them for their apparent dedication to the idea and value of commitment.

"Commitment is a Corps Value that doesn't get much attention," he said. "We work very hard to instill a sense of commitment in our Marines. I think if you look back and ask 'why is America great,' I think it's because of commitment – commitment to freedom."

Trautman told the crowd he believes the best things in life aren't free because they require commitment. He put much of the credit for instilling that principle of commit-

ment on teachers, scout leaders, youth sports, and ultimately, drill instructors.

"I think what we need is good mentors and your mere presence here shows that you're committed," Trautman praised. "But why are we trying so hard? The answer is we want to pass on the sense of commitment our parents instilled in us."

Many guests were visibly appreciative of the ceremony. Most agreed that the high attendance for the ceremony proved that the local community is loyal to teaching commitment for the current generations and generations to come.

"I think the ceremony was wonderful," said Brandon Caton, Cub Scout den leader. "Commitment is important to start with early in a person's life. It's equally important to continue as they climb (the Boy Scout ranks) in their den or even in the Marine Corps."

Several drill instructors were on hand, to manifest the Marine Corps' beliefs on commitment. Each drill instructor is a recruit's first meeting with commitment.

"I think the community tells me they're committed by showing up here today," said Staff Sgt. Robert McDermott, Mike Company, 3d Battalion, drill instructor. "We're all about good things. Today's ceremony was really good, and it lets the community see exactly what we're all about and what goes on inside a Marine base."

Each month a colors ceremony is presented with a different theme. Music performed at each ceremony is based on that theme.



Guests including local Boy Scouts, drill instructors from MCRD and 3d MAW Marines stand for the raising of the Colors during the wing's monthly colors ceremony. This ceremony featured the Corps' value "Commitment." Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

Flight Jacket



Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr.
Commanding General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon
Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases
Western Area

Maj. T.V. Johnson
Director, Public Affairs Office

Capt. Rebecca Goodrich-Hinton
Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office

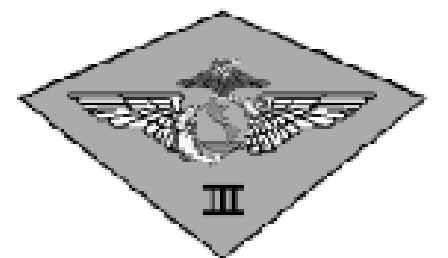
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Volunteer for LINKS

By Michelle Osborn

LINKS, MCAS Miramar

Esprit de corps was the topic of this column last week. This week, the members of the Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills team would like to extend an open invitation to all Marine spouses to get a little bit of that esprit de corps for themselves.

Just as Marines come together with an enthusiastic spirit to accomplish amazing things, so do spouses. Right now, there is a great need for spouses to serve as LINKS volunteers. There are several opportunities available. Some, such as mentoring, require the completion of specialized training that will be conducted later this month. All other positions simply require a positive attitude and a desire to help fellow spouses.

Whether you volunteer to mentor, provide refreshments, babysitting services, or to perform administrative or clerical duties, your skills are needed. Whether you've been married to your Marine for one day or 30 years, everyone has something to offer. A seasoned spouse may bring experience and wisdom while newer spouses are always a great source of new and fresh ideas.

For more information or to volunteer call LINKS at 577-4810.

DoD working on retention challenges

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The military retention picture in DoD is good, but the services must make efforts to ensure personnel with the right mix of skills stay in uniform.

“There will always be a focus on retention, because the volunteer force of the kind we have relies very heavily on experienced personnel to serve as leaders and trainers and mentors,” said Vice Adm. Patricia Tracey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel policy.

Right now, getting the correct mix is particularly challenging because the military is coming out of a downsizing period. “There were several years when we didn’t bring in as many people as we needed to man the force in the normal course of events,” she said. People in these year groups are meeting their minimum service requirement windows or the end of their re-enlistments, she noted.

“They are coming to a decision point between now and the next five years, and we will need a higher-than-normal retention rate out of those cohorts. It’ll take a lot of extra effort to make that happen,” she said. The services will need “virtually a 100 percent continuation rate” to sustain normal manning in some small, specialized skill areas, she noted.

Further complicating the retention situation are some changes in behavior over and above the effects of downsizing. “Some groups of people are leaving at a higher rate

at the decision points than they have in the past,” Tracey said. “Some people are leaving at points in their careers that we’ve not seen before.”

The slowdown in the economy will help retain some people. They’re a bit less confident that that they can walk out and have a job drop in their laps, she said. “Nevertheless, we need to pay attention, because these loss rates point to a change in the behavior of the force.”

DoD must examine incentives and other tools to retain people. Congress has done a fair amount of legislative work, she said, and DoD has done policy work to help the services retain the people they need. DoD already offers pilots a large incentive bonus. She said this is having some effect, but not as much as DoD would like.

“We need to be a lot more creative about how to solve this problem,” Tracey said. “We need an approach that probably involves more than the department in trying to address a nationwide shortage of pilots over the next 10 years. The solutions will be harder to orchestrate and more difficult to work.”

Bonuses are the best tools. They can be precisely targeted and have a great track record, the admiral said. Legislation has raised the amount that can be paid to enlisted personnel and the services have more flexibility in applying the bonuses. Also, DoD can now pay bonuses at points in careers it has never offered them before.

Other personnel management processes must be changed to meet the challenges posed by the small year groups. “You have

to be able to tailor force management policies to those year groups and account for the fact that they will have very different experiences than year groups that are large enough to accommodate a traditional career path,” Tracey said.

For example, every service with a large number of pilots has year groups that are smaller than needed. “All the pilots in those years will spend their early developmental years only in the cockpit,” she said. This is a problem because those pilots won’t have the career-broadening jobs the services like them to have.

Pay increases have helped retention, but DoD must do more to improve basic compensation, she said. Other quality of life initiatives are important in retention.

“Services have done a lot in the past 10 years to try to manage people’s time away from home and at least make it more predictable and of a predictable duration,” Tracey said. “That has helped, but separations are still a major factor that people consider when deciding whether to stay or go.”

She said the force is not just a very married one, but one of dual professional married couples or at least dual-income couples.

“There is a substantial challenge to manage family issues for the force. It is made harder, obviously, by the high deployment rate of the force over the past 10 years,” she said. Ensuring people have quality time with their families and a measure of family stability needs to be a part of whatever DoD

See **Retention**, page 11

Ad Space

Mir
Remarks**What do you think of the recent changes to the sea bag issue?**

"It's Marine Corps regulation. If you're in uniform, you should respect it. I feel the changes are adequate."

Cpl. Olabanji Adeniranye
H&HS
flight planner



"It's nice to have new uniforms and to look good, but it's nicer to have that lance corporal be able to feed his family. We're spending money on new uniforms when I thought we were addressing quality-of-life issues."

Sgt. Maj. Barbara Titus
MTACS-38
sergeant major



"The changes are good and will benefit Marines, but along with that, the amount of inspections will increase to make sure they maintain it."

CWO-3 George Lawson
MAG-11
NBC officer-in-charge

Problem Solving 101: *Take control of your own situation*

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

Commentary

I recently had the privilege of leading a platoon of 62 Marines – privates through lance corporals – at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Md.

I say privilege, because through my billet as platoon sergeant, I learned so much about being a good leader. More importantly, I learned a lot about how to be successful Marine.

The most important lesson I learned is in every Marine's life some rain must fall. Marines of all ranks have personal problems that can affect the overall mission of any unit. It is an inescapable fact as constant as the sun rising in the east and setting in the west. The simple key to staying out of the downpour: pack an umbrella.

During my two-month tenure as platoon sergeant, I had Marines approach me with

various gripes, concerns, troubles and complaints. Everything from a Marine in danger of having his car repossessed to another Marine's ailing mother in dire need of financial support came through me first as I was the first link in those Marines' chain-of-command. So they thought.

Each time a Marine came to me for help, I would listen objectively to the crisis. So often the Marines would say, "Here is my problem. What should I do?"

Instead of offering my snap-judgement, I would reply simply, "What do you think you should do? What solution would bring about the quickest and most rewarding resolution to your problem?"

Many times the Marine would give me a puzzled look admitting the obvious oversight of the real first link in the chain-of-command – the individual Marine.

Every individual Marine must realize he or she is the first step in the problem-solving

process. As a leader, I would much rather hear a Marine say, "Here is my problem. Here are a few viable solutions to my problem. What do you think?"

That type of thinking — bringing your umbrella when rain is imminent — shows initiative and cognitive problem-solving skills. That is the first step in breaking free from the "comfort zone" of being a follower and becoming a leader. In order to be an effective leader, a Marine must first know how to deal with his or her personal life. Then, the Marine will be ready to face the problems of others with an objective mindset and helpful disposition.

I can't honestly say that I have always been the type of Marine to approach every problem with my own set of solutions. I can say that my role as the leader of 62 Marines taught me valuable problem-solving skills that have helped me mold myself into a better Marine.

Sports reporting shouldn't show favoritism

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephanie Robertson

Letter to the editor

I have to say that I've read the article [titled MALS-11 clips Seahawks wings in the April 13 issue of the Flight Jacket] and am disappointed in your story. Not only do you come off as being biased, you have totally made our team sound like imbeciles. While the Aviation Supply Seahawks are not professionals in the sport of soccer, I wouldn't say that MALS-11 is either. I attended the game in subject and have to admit that the Seahawks lost tremendously, but to be exploited in the fashion that you have done so [station]-wide isn't helping their morale either. And yes, morale is the key to the last sentence since you don't seem to know what that is. You can't even spell it correctly. Maybe you should use the spell and grammar check the next time you write something.

It's one thing to have "off days", which was the case for the Seahawks on that particular day, but you conveyed that our team basically had no skills in the sport. The

Seahawks do hold "organized practices," but you can't be the best all the time, as MALS-11 found out recently. Don't get me wrong, MALS-11 is a great team and I wish them the best of luck throughout the season, but the Seahawks play with just as much spirit and dedication as the next team. Where was that stated in your article?

Another thing to have included in your article was statements from both teams. As I recall, you did talk to the Seahawks assistant coach and his views were nowhere stated in your article. If you were interested in writing a good article about the game, you should have at least considered the views of the Seahawks. And while you're at it, why don't you do an article on team support?

I don't see any other team out there playing with such support from their families, friends, and co-workers. I am an avid supporter of the Seahawks, and I feel that what makes a great team is not only the players but the people who cheer them on.

In closing, I want to just say that your article is a shame of journalism. It's one thing to write about the plays and the winning team, but consider the losing one. Like I

wrote earlier, your article made the Seahawks sound like the worst team out there and that is a tough hit to our team's morale. Thanks for writing such an awful article.

Editor's note: We are always pleased to hear that people are reading the Flight Jacket and encourage editorials, commentaries, letters to the editor and other opinion pieces.

Regarding the aforementioned article, sports writers for such a large air station have the very difficult task of covering the dozens of sports teams on the facility. As the air station does not have an official team, stories may sometimes seem biased toward the winning teams. However, this is not the case.

We highly encourage fan support at intramural events, which is why you will notice that we attempt to include times and places of future games so that our readers can enjoy the excitement of a game for themselves.

As for the use of "moral" instead of "morale" in the story - the editorial staff is responsible for catching that error.

Volunteerism is the Marine Corps way

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

Commentary

As a combat correspondent here, I get to cover an array of stories ranging from training missions to new Marine Corps Community Services programs. I am fortunate, because I get to see what the rest of the Miramar Marines are doing in their jobs.

Recently, I got an opportunity to see what Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 are doing in their spare time – volunteering to tutor San Diego's students.

This act of Volunteerism personifies the core value of commitment. Not only are Ma-

rines who volunteer their time to help our community committed to the daily Marine Corps mission, but also these Marines are committed to the well being of the community we all shares.

Physical fitness is a Marine Corps way of life. We train our bodies hard on the off chance that someday our physical prowess will be called upon to keep us alive in combat. That training is being put to use by Marines in another selfless act of volunteerism.

Coach and Cpl. Micheal O. Foley, the editor of the Flight Jacket, is the volunteer assistant coach of the Mira Mesa Missiles, a local youth track team. His Marine Corps training and physical fitness has allowed him

to give back to the community again personifying commitment in the eyes of our community.

It's not hard. The Marine Corps has given us the tools – physical fitness, discipline, and commitment - we need to positively influence our community. Southern California has a huge population of people in need of some type of help. As Marines, it is our job to seek those people out and do what we can to assist.

On a global scale, Marines participate in acts of volunteerism everyday. Every humanitarian assistance operation is an act of

See **Volunteerism**, page 11

NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you have news? Did you take a newsworthy photo? Would you like to see your byline in the Flight Jacket? The newspaper staff encourages Marines to submit commentaries, editorials letters to the editor or other articles or photographs. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

Basic Class 4-57 reunites for third time in San Diego

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

SAN DIEGO – For the third time in four years, members of Basic Class 4-57 met here at a local hotel May 12, to not only catch up with each other, but to relive their Marine Corps days as well.

A local yacht club was the scene for a feast, guest speakers and swing music.

Retired Marine Lt. Gen. Victor “Brute” Krulak was on hand to share in the festivities with the approximately 100 guests. Former public affairs officer and fellow classmate Ted Owen introduced the evening’s guest speaker, retired Marine Capt. Dale Dye, after showing a brief clip from the movie “Platoon.”

Dye, a Vietnam veteran, is now a consultant for the movie industry regarding military films, and is an actor himself. He spoke to the group about how he got into the business of training actors to accurately portray servicemembers, his experiences in Hollywood and his company.

“When I got out of the Marine Corps I was trying to figure out what to do next,” he said. “I had been shot too many times to be a cop, and the Mafia wasn’t hiring. I was a big fan of military movies, so I decided to go to Hollywood.”

Dye said he got into the movie business because he felt filmmakers weren’t showing a true representation of U.S. troops. He went to convince those same filmmakers how a war movie was supposed to look and feel.

“I told myself there’s a way we can fix this,” he said. “Now the problem was finding someone who would let me do it my way – the Marine Corps way.”

Dye met up with fellow Vietnam veteran Oliver Stone while Stone was making his movie “Platoon.” Although they didn’t always see eye-to-eye, Dye said the final result was a movie, which realistically portrayed the trials and tribulations of actual combat – his goal from the beginning. He also had a cameo role in the film.

“I thought ‘maybe there’s a power here in this popular medium,’” he said. “Maybe as an actor I can touch some people and show them not only who I was, but who you were.”

Although Dye has been in Hollywood since the mid-1980’s, his efforts in the industry were pushed to the forefront with the movie “Saving Private Ryan.” The uncannily realistic battle scenes have enabled many to see the horrors of World War II. He said that many veterans have come to him and thanked him for making the battle scenes so accurate. He also announced that he will soon team up again with Steven Spielberg to shoot a movie about the flag raising at Iwo Jima.

Dye gave credit to the retired officers for influencing and inspiring him to be the Marine he was.

“I don’t get many chances to do this,” he said. “This is the generation that molded me.” Dye added that not all the veterans had combat experience — they served between the Korea and Vietnam Wars, but all of them still had heart.

One highlight of the evening was listening to retired Maj. Gen. Carl Hoffman’s swing band. Maj. Gen.

Hoffman got the Marines and their spouses moving with the wail of his trumpet, and after warming them up, he recalled a story during his days of fighting off Japanese soldiers on Guadalcanal.

Major General Hoffman turned back the hands of time to November 1942. The Marines had just received word that the Japanese fleet had turned and was heading toward Guadalcanal. Once on land, the enemy started using a peculiar psychological maneuver on the Marines.

“The Japanese started using a tactic which had an adverse effect on our Marines,” he said. “In the middle of the night you would hear a bugler playing a simple melody. We didn’t know what it meant, and it affected us – you could feel it.”

After only a few nights of hearing the tune, Maj. Gen. Hoffman pulled out his trum-

See **Reunion**, page 11



The guest speaker for Basic Class 4-57’s reunion was retired Capt. Dale Dye, a Vietnam veteran, consultant on military films and an actor himself. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

Ad Space

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY



Belly dancers from a local dance studio perform a Middle Eastern dance at Miramar's Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration May 8. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*



Anthony Stanley, 3, displays a Hawaiian dance that is commonly the first dance learned by children in Hawaii. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*



Sergeant Justin Dyer, support equipment/hydraulics technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, dons a chef's hat and sunglasses as he cooks up some tasty cuisine for festival-goers. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*

MCCS holds Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration



Students from Hilltop High School show off a Florico Ballet, a Spanish dance, to a crowd at the Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*



Corporal Keena Brock, field radio operator, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, dances with Akayaa Atule, African dancer, storyteller and professor at San Diego State University. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar was the embodiment of its theme "Strength in Diversity." The festivities were held May 8 to celebrate and honor the diverse ethnic and cultural heritage enjoyed by air station personnel and their families.

Food booths offering tasty tidbits from German, Hispanic, Asian and many other cultures were a big hit with the many Marines, Sailors, civilian personnel and family members who took time out of their day to enjoy the festivities.

"The Marine Corps is made up of different backgrounds and cultures," said Staff Sgt. Sean Doran, squadron gunnery sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "This gives us an opportunity to recognize their contribution to this diverse country."

Entertainment for the event included: traditional Polynesian dancers, a gospel

singer, a Filipino martial art demonstration, belly dancers and a variety of other acts highlighting and celebrating the different cultures.

The Florico Ballet, performed by a group of local students from Hilltop High School from Chula Vista, was a particular favorite of the crowd. The group performed traditional dances of Spain and Mexico, complete with brightly-colored costumes and lively music.

Major General William G. Bowdon, commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area and Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, both attended the event. Major General Bowdon began the celebration with opening remarks.

Major General Bolden, just coming off a 24,000-mile trek around the world, presented prizes at the conclusion of the occasion.

"This was only our second year doing this," said Donna Ronan, event entertainment coordinator. "Hopefully next year's will be even bigger and better."



Two Filipino brothers demonstrate Philippines-style martial art techniques at the Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration as a crowd watches. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*

Ad Space

Death Rattlers put training into action over Iraqi skies



AN F/A-18 Hornet from VMFA-323 bound for the hostile skies over Iraq for Operation Southern Watch awaits the signal to launch off the USS Constellation May 3. Photo by 2nd Lt. Joshua G. Rushing

By 2nd Lt. Joshua G. Rushing

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

USS Constellation — Marines train — constantly, incessantly. Their motto might as well be, “Semper Training.” So when they finally get to put that training into action, morale of some of the world’s sharpest troops soars.

Such is the story for the “Death Rattlers” of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323. As the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing F/A-18s patrol the hostile skies of southern Iraq for Operation Southern Watch, its Marines surge with pride.

“This is our mission in life. It’s what we train for,” said Staff Sgt. Jason D. Stephens, VMFA-323 maintenance controller.

Stephens, and 270 of his Miramar-stationed squadronmates, are currently

aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation. They departed with Carrier Air Wing Two, which is attached to the Constellation Battle Group, in March and will be the forward presence of the long arm of American diplomacy until their return in September.

When Marines normally deploy on ships it is not as a 270-person squadron on a single ship, but as a Marine Expeditionary Unit with 3,500 Marines from numerous units split up on several smaller ships.

“We’re the only Marines out of 5,500 (people) on this boat,” said Capt. Tim J. Sanchez, VMFA-323 Maintenance Material Control Officer. “We’re set to a higher standard, but we joined because we believe in the Marine way, and while we strive to be part of the Navy team, we still keep strong our Marine identity.”

Once again it’s the drive of the mission

that ignites Sanchez’s morale, “The whole battle group is designed around this carrier and what we do,” he said. “That’s an incredible feeling.”

For this deployment VMFA-323 is augmented by a small detachment from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and a few representatives from Marine Wing Support Squadrons 372 and 373.

“Our morale is higher than I would have expected,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joe T. Morrison, MALS-11 detachment staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “I had a lot of Marines that wanted to come, but couldn’t. So everyone here is a volunteer.

“Most are 23 years old or younger, but they’re more serious out here than they probably have ever been in their lives because this is a real-world operation,” he said.

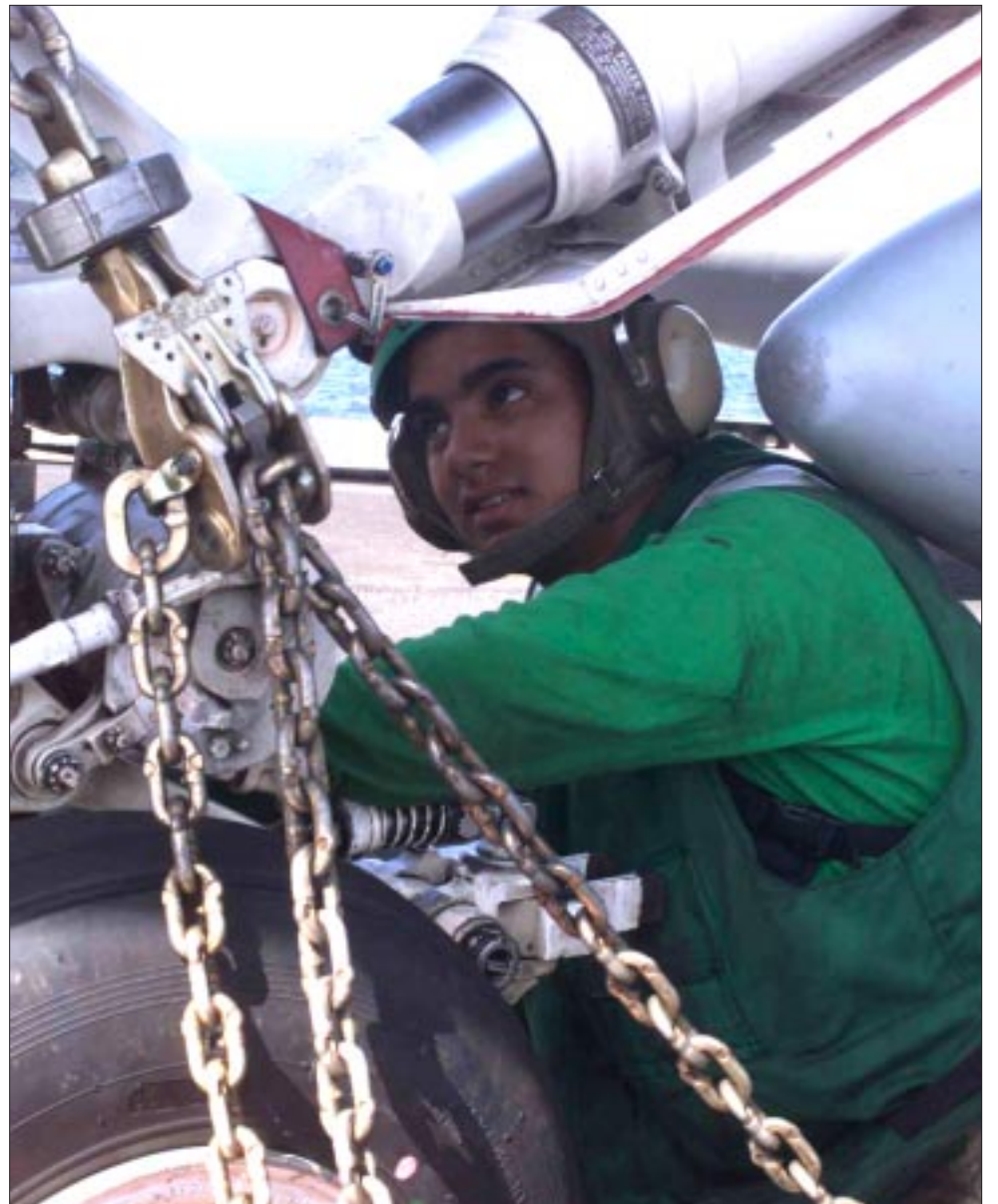
All the Marines agree that the hardest part of the six-month deployment is the sacrifice of time away from their families.

“I miss my family and playing with the kids. They’re filling up our new pool tomorrow and I’m kind of sad about that,” said Morrison. “But otherwise this is great; I get to workout three times a day.”

“I miss my wife and 2-year-old son,” said Sgt. Eric J. Rockwell, 25-year-old power plant mechanic and veteran of four such deployments. “I miss being able to go to the park with her and have wrestling matches with him.”

“I know they miss their families, as I do, but we’re proud to be executing our mission in a real-world operation,” said Col. Eric Weber, VMFA-323 commanding officer. “Things are going great. The Marines are performing as only U.S. Marines can.”

“We look forward to September 15, when we’ll bring everyone safely back to their families,” Weber added.



Lance Corporal Carlos A. Sierra, airframes intermediate mechanic, MALS-11, oils a VMFA-323 Hornet’s landing gear. Sierra is part of a detachment augmenting 323 aboard USS Constellation on deployment to the Persian Gulf . Photo by 2nd Lt. Joshua G. Rushing

Ad Space

Following the Friars

“The team of the Navy and Marine Corps”

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

In a not-so-great week, the Friars have fallen back into last place, four games behind the division-leading San Francisco Giants.

Don’t lose heart, Friar fans. The Padres have been plagued with injuries this week, and are readjusting well to the roster changes.

The week opened at Qualcomm Stadium with an evening game against the Atlanta Braves May 9. The Atlanta Braves starting pitcher, John Burkett, came to San Diego to win, and did so in fine fashion as he shutout the Friars. The final score of the match was 3-0. Tony Gwynn, Padres’ right fielder, left the game in the fifth inning with a cramp in his right hamstring. Gwynn was placed back on the disabled list for the second time this season.

May 10, the Padres proved once again that they are an afternoon force to be reckoned with as they beat the Braves 6-5. The Braves led 5-1 in the top of the sixth inning, but the Friars bats opened up with a barrage of base hits and home runs off Tom Glavine in the bottom of the inning. Third baseman Mike Colangelo blasted a two-run shot over the fence, and catcher Wiki Gonzalez followed up with a three-run homer to give the Padres the win.

In a ten-inning duel with the Florida Marlins May 11, the Padres squeaked by the Fish 7-6. Outfielder Rickey Henderson’s grounder in the bottom of the 10th scored second baseman Damian Jackson from third. First baseman Ryan Klesko had two home runs in the game for a total of seven on the season. In what would be their last win of the week, the Friars won for the 10th time in 12 games.

Saturday was sweet revenge for the Fish as starting pitcher A.J. Burnett threw the second no-hitter in the major leagues this season. Clocked at 91 mph in the ninth inning, Burnett’s fastball took the Marlins to a 3-0 victory. The Padres helped Burnett by striking out seven times and consistently swinging early in the count.

To add insult to injury, the Marlins stomped the Padres 10-4 in an afternoon match-up Sunday. The only Padres’ highlight of the game came when outfielder Bubba Trammel homered and drove in three runs for the Friars. The homer paled in comparison to Marlins catcher Charles Johnson’s grand slam off Padres reliever Jay Witasick’s 1-2 pitch in the top of the seventh to start a Florida rally. The rubber game at Qualcomm was the last game before the Padres started a grueling nine-game road trip.

After having Monday off, the Padres squared off against the New York Mets Tuesday. In a pitching battle, Mets pitcher Rick Reed bested Padres pitcher Bobby Jones in a 1-0 victory. Mets catcher Mike Piazza was at the top of his game throwing out a pair of Padres base runners – catcher Ben Davis and second baseman Adam Riggs. Bobby Jones drops to 1-5 on the season.

The story this week has been injuries. Tony Gwynn, Damian Jackson, Mark Kotsay, and Brian Tollberg all joined teammate Mike Darr on the disabled list this week. Jackson and Tollberg both fractured fingers this week, and Kotsay was sent to the bench on Tuesday with tightness in his left quadriceps.

The Padres will face the New York Mets,

the Montreal Expos, and the Houston Astros in the coming week. The Friars will return to the “Q” May 24 to take on the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Although it’s been a rough week, the Padres are looking better as the season progresses. With only a four-game deficit, it’s still anybody’s season.

GO PADRES!

Back in Last

National League West

Team	Record	GB
Giants	22-16	---
Dodgers	22-17	1/2
Diamondbacks	20-18	2
Rockies	19-19	3
<u>Padres</u>	<u>18-20</u>	<u>4</u>

Accurate as of Tuesday evening.



Padres third-baseman, Dave Magadan stands on second base during the Friars sixth-inning romp against Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Glavine May 10. During the sixth the Padres hit two homers and posted five runs. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Ad Space

2nd Annual Health Fair

The 2nd Annual Miramar Health Fair, "Just for the Health of It," will be held Thursday at the Sports Complex Field from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The fair will include health and fitness displays and demonstrations, product samples from several local vendors, sports medicine and nutrition education, and health screenings.

Active duty, retirees, family members, and DoD employees are welcome to attend.

For more information call 577-7963 or 577-1331.

"Gator Day" at Naval Station San Diego Pier 2

Amphibious Group Three is sponsoring "Gator Day" Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will showcase the Sailors, Marines, ships, aircraft, combat vehicles and weapons of the amphibious Navy and Marine Corps team.

The public is invited to enjoy the event.

For more information call Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott Williams at (619) 556-1460.

Stand up, buckle up, and shuffle to the cadence competition

Marine Corps Community Services offers the Armed Forces Day Cadence Competition.

Finals are scheduled to take place Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m.

For details call Lynn Sanchez at 577-4129.

Salute to America's military

Salute America's military at San Diego's largest Armed Forces Day celebration. The 2001 Armed Forces Day Festival will be held at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join more than 15,000 visitors at this event, which is open to the public.

For more information access Miramar MCCS online at www.mccsmiramar.com/armed_forces_day.htm.

Honoring Veterans

A ceremony honoring our veterans will be held at the Riverside National Cemetery Outdoor Amphitheater May 28 at 11 a.m.

Presentation of colors, rifle salute and Taps will be performed by the Semper Fi Memorial Honor detail.

Patriotic music selections will be performed by the Riverside Concert Band under the direction of Ed Casem and vocal selection performed by the Redlanaires.

Rider up!

Camp Pendleton's All-Military Rodeo is scheduled for June 2 and 3 at the Ace Bowen Rodeo Grounds.

Performance times are June 2 at 1 and 5 p.m. and June 3 at 1 p.m.

For information call (888) 375 MCCS (6227).

Riders must register on or before May 23. Call (760) 725-5094 or (760) 725-5085.

Library starts book club

The air station library holds their first Oprah's Book Club meeting, June 7.

For information call Ann Pflugh at 577-6316.

Mira Mesa Pop Warner cheerleading seeks volunteers

Drag out all those all cheers you knew in high school and encourage community youth activities. No experience is necessary.

For more information call Evelyn Pine at 271-7392.

Playmorning at the Rec Center

Pre-schoolers of all ages are invited to attend Playmorning at the Admiral Baker Recreation Center every third Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

For information and directions call the Marine New Parent Support Program (619) 524-0805.

First Friends

Marine New Parents Support Program offers First Friends – a group for Mom's with babies one to six months old.

The group meets at Mills Park on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 3 to 3:50 p.m.

For details call the Marine New Parents Support Program at 577-9812.

Main (East) Gate Closure

Due to renovation, the Main Gate will be closed periodically between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. until June 4. Lane closures and traffic delays should be expected while construction work is underway.

Education Center offers SAT, ACT

The Education Center is administering the Scholastic Aptitude Test on the first and third Tuesdays during May and June at 7:30 a.m.

Reservations are not required. However, personnel who have not reserved their tests will be served on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Academic Collegiate Test is admin-

Free movies from MCCS

Today
Just Visiting (PG-13) 4:30 p.m.
Someone Like You (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
Heartbreakers (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Saturday
Pokemon 3 (G) 6:30 p.m.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.

Sunday
Pokemon 3 (G) 1 p.m.
Exit Wounds (R) 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Josie & the Pussycats (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

Thursday
Pokemon 3 (G) 1 p.m.
Heartbreakers (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

The station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for everyone. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

istered the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

For more information call Charles D. Banks at 577-1895.

Welcome aboard brief changes to Wednesdays

The Commanding General's Welcome Aboard Brief at the Joint Reception Center, Building 2258, has changed to the first and third Wednesday of each month vice Monday. The brief is from 7:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The following dates are provided for you to plan accordingly:

June 6, 20

For more information call 577-1783 or 577-9123

YMCA Out & About Tour changes to Thursdays

The YMCA Out & About Tour has changed to the first and third Thursday instead of Tuesday. The brief will take place from 7:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the tour will take place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Annual tug of war seeks teams

The Annual Health Day Fair presents the tug of war event Thursday.

Teams interested in competing are urged to contact Capt. Bohannon at 577-8430 as soon as possible. Teams must include 12 members and only the first 12 teams will be allowed to enter.

Sign-up sheets will be located at the fitness center.

The 13th Dental Company wants you to know...

Thursday is health promotion day. The 13th Dental Company will have a booth set up near the running track behind the gym with some goodies to give away. The first 50 people will be well rewarded. There is also helpful information for you and your family.

For more information call Navy Lt. David D. Manshadi at 577-1825.

It's summer, play outside

The following are events sponsored by the Marine Corps Community Services Outdoor Adventure Center:

June 2: Kayaking and snorkeling at La Jolla Shores Beach.

June 23: Mountain biking at Noble Canyon in Pine Valley.

June 30: Kayaking and snorkeling at La Jolla Shores Beach.

Kayaking and snorkeling trips are for participants of any skill level. If weather permits kayakers and snorkelers usually see stingrays, leopard and shovelnose sharks, jellyfish and sea lions.

The mountain bike trip is for intermediate to advanced riders. Riders can expect some of the most challenging downhill trails in San Diego County. The trail begins with hard pack and some stream crossings followed by a decent into a softball-size-rocky middle section and finish with approximately a mile of steep sand and gravel.

For details call 577-4150.

Ad Space

Don't miss Miramar Fire Department's Charity Golf Tournament



1 p.m., June 1 at
*Calton Oaks
Country Club*

**For more information
call Mark Weimann
at 577-6137.**

Retention,
continued from page 3
does, Tracey added.

Job satisfaction is also an important part of people’s retention decision. “Their satisfaction depends as much on whether they have the spare parts they need as whether our infrastructure is attuned to the tasks we expect them to accomplish,” she said.

“You need a balanced approach to personnel and readiness,” Tracey remarked. With all the challenges, DoD still retains about half the people who serve. Evidence is that DoD is retaining the right people.

“Retention is not just the business of personnel people or recruiters,” she said. “It is really the business of the leadership of the entire institution to be sure we recruit the caliber of people that we need and then develop and retain them.”

Reunion,
continued from page 5

pet and, after hearing the bugler play, played the same tune back at him.

He said the Marines cheered – the tune sounding so much better and clearer on a trumpet than on the Japanese bugle. That was the last night the Marines heard the mysteri-

ous tune from the Japanese. He said that after the next battle, the Marines were looking at the dead Japanese, and next to one of the soldiers lay a bugle with red cord wrapped around it. The fallen soldier was the mysterious bugler.

Major General Hoffman found the bugle, and still has it today, always remembering the psychological battle fought between the two men. During the telling of the story he played the mysterious tune from the Japanese bugle and then from his own trumpet, to show the crowd the difference in the tune – the difference that brought back his Marines’ motivation.

Retired Marine Colonel and Medal of Honor recipient Robert J. Modrzejewski summed up the true feelings for not only the evening, but for the reunion as a whole - “It’s really great seeing these guys when you haven’t seen them for 40 years,” he said. “It’s nice to get together and look back on our careers and share our memories.”

He said everyone has done well and that most have had interesting careers after the Marine Corps. Many of his fellow classmates had careers as bank presidents, engineers and even a judge.

“What this reunion does is reinforce the

Marine Corps family,” he said. “It shows that the friends you make in the Corps are friends for life.”

Volunteerism,
continued from page 4
Marines giving freely of themselves to alleviate suffering.

The question then is: If Marines are willing to haul rice in Haiti to feed starving children, why aren’t they willing to tutor one child for an hour a week here?

It makes me proud to say that Miramar Marines are answering that call. More units are getting involved in our community, more individual Marines are gathering toys for

children at Christmas, and more people are benefiting from our effort.

Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, is a strong advocate of Volunteerism and community outreach. Recently he said, “Volunteerism is a virtuous activity worthy of our efforts.”

I will continue to cover the goings-on of this station for at least the next two years. Hopefully, I will get to go to more awards banquets for Marines and Marine units who have been instrumental in the lives of civilians in our community. Those are the stories that make me proud to bear the title “Marine.”



Miss an issue?

Check the *Flight Jacket* archives online

www.miramar.usmc.mil/flight.htm